

and New Guinea. In April this year Dr. I. H. Steward collected one in the estuary of the King Edward River (north Kimberley). The snake was captured at high tide on a moonless night, several hundred yards from the mangrove-lined shore.

Denisonia mastersi (Krefft) of south-eastern Australia was first collected in this State in January 1963, when Mr. A. M. Douglas found one under rubbish near the long-abandoned telegraph station at Euela. It has since been found near Coeklebidy, 160 miles further west.

—G. M. STORR, W.A. Museum.

An Early Occurrence of the Kelp Gull in South-Western Australia.—While working through the bird collection at the Western Australian Museum, I was momentarily puzzled with the identity of a juvenile-plumaged gull (No. A2701) collected at Claremont on August 22, 1924, labelled *Gabianus* (= *Larus*) *pacificus*, but which had a bill too small for this species. That it was in fact a Kelp or Dominican Gull, *L. dominicanus*, soon became obvious. The specimen was later forwarded to Mr. F. C. Kinsky of the Dominion Museum, Wellington, New Zealand, who substantiated the identification and remarked (*in litt.*) that the specimen is a first-year bird which was collected only about six months after reaching the flying stage.

The particulars of the specimen are: female; exposed culmen length, 45 mm.; culmen depth at base, 18.5; culmen depth at angle of gonys, 19; tarsus, 66; right wing, 411; left wing, 416; tail, 165. Predominate'y brown mottled plumage with no conspicuous diagnostic markings on wings and tail. No primaries nor rectrices missing.

Kinsky (*Rec. Dominion Mus.*, 4 (14), 1963: 161) has shown that although the dimensions of New Zealand and sub-antarctic birds overlap, the latter tend to be smaller than those from the more temperate regions, the differences being particularly evident in the bill and wing. The measurements of the specimen coincide with the upper limit measurements of first year females of the New Zealand population as given by Kinsky, and do not lie within the range of those of the sub-antarctic islands to the south-west of the State. Apparently, therefore, the individual originated from New Zealand rather than from the South Indian Ocean region which was first suspected on the basis of the bird having been collected near Perth.

The Kelp Gull was recently observed at Albany, and at Boulanger Island, Jurien Bay (*J. Ford, W. Aust. Nat.*, 9, 1964: 86).

—JULIAN FORD, Perth.

The Black-throated Whiplbird near Gnowangerup.—A few miles east of Gnowangerup an unsealed road leaves the main Gnowangerup-Ongerup highway and runs practically due east. Where it reaches the summit of a slight rise in typical sandplain country Dean Fisher, Fred Johnston and myself, while on our way to the Albany Field-Outing of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union on October 26,